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Expenditure.

1807.

	£.	s.	d.
Weekly wages, and cloathing to the blind . . .	437	5	4
Purchases of stock . . .	249	10	0
Advanced on account of parishes, and friends	85	19	2
Two masters for their labour and instructions . . .	152	15	8
Superintendant, matron and servant . . .	67	8	4
Raw materials . . .	567	7	0
Furniture, insurance, stamps, printing, coals, candles, &c.	97	2	0
	1657	8	3
Balance in banker's hands	320	16	6
	£1978	4	9

Officers, Teachers, &c.

A matron at twenty guineas per annum, with coals and candles, and a servant at six shillings per week, reside.

Two masters at one pound six shillings each, per week, and a secretary at forty guineas per annum.

The masters are mostly at work, and earn the amount of their wages, as the senior pupils, except in difficult cases, are competent to instruct new comers.

Government of the School.

Vested in a treasurer, and a committee of twenty six, and three auditors. Meet annually.

Miscellaneous Notices.

It is intended as the funds shall increase to board and lodge the pupils, to increase their number, and introduce other manufactures.

An idea is also entertained of rendering the institution an asylum for those aged blind who have no claim upon friends or parishes.

NORWICH.

One still in its infancy, on the plan of Liverpool.

The foregoing statement refers chiefly to the year 1807. The accounts for 1808, not being made up when the information was received, a few particulars are extracted from later correspondence, which prove the increasing interest the public take in these establishments. The various modes of making out their accounts, will account for the diversity to be observed, and some alterations in the manner of stating them, seemed ne-

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cessary to show the actual receipts in any one year, &c. This schedule will show that upwards of thirty varieties of handicraft can be performed without the aid of sight, and some other trades not mentioned, have and might be introduced, whether *one, more* or *which* should be attempted in any new establishment will depend much upon contingent and local circumstances. Some expenses may be saved, at least at first, as for music, secretary, &c. on the other hand there cannot be here any allowance from parishes, and probably very little from friends. To board them, as well for moral as other considerations, will probably be deemed most eligible, and in proportion it would seem that the cost would not be greater. When the pupils shall have acquired proficiency, they will no doubt equal those in Great Britain, who manufacture articles in no respect inferior in quality to what can elsewhere be purchased. But at first there must be much waste. For all these reasons, it would hardly be prudent even to begin without a considerable sum, suppose fifteen hundred pounds in hand, and a moral certainty of three hundred to five hundred annually in future. Premises must be extensive. Having space for pits to steep willows in, storage, &c. of easy access, and resorted to by genteel company. This is strongly inculcated by those who are conversant with such establishments.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE DISASTERS AND DEATHS OCCASIONED BY ACCIDENTS.

THAT fortune is changeable and life uncertain, we admit as an unquestionable truth, when speaking of our neighbours; but when nothing disturbs us we seldom seriously apply it to ourselves. It is when confounded by some dreadful spectacle, like that which occurred the other day, a few fields hence, that the humbled mortal becomes sincerely sensible of the presumption of calculating on another hour of existence.

A robust, healthful labourer, went out to assist the woodman in bringing to the ground a tree, which with all its ponderous weight, unexpectedly

descended and with one of its unwieldy branches literally rivetted him to the earth: this moment he displayed Herculean strength, the next lay crushed like a feeble insect; and the horribreathing yells of his appalled companions alarmed the distant ear, ere his "sturdy stroke" had ceased to vibrate in it. While partaking of his homely meal a few minutes before, he had been consoling his wife with the prospect of more prosperous seasons enabling him to procure her richer fare; and flattering her vanity with the hope of a holiday dress, which he was to purchase her whenever payday came. And as he daddled his favourite child in that last hour of ease, he had been ruminating on the occupation that in future years would best suit its capacity to learn, and his circumstances to teach; and when the bell rang, he had set it down with an adieu on his countenance, and bade it be good till evening and he would bring at a nice new hobby-horse. Alas! long ere night shall that widowed wife, like the image of despondency, droop over his mangled frame. Mirthful to others the May-day holiday shall arrive, but find her wrapt in the weeds of mourning; and her last homely meal was a banquet in comparison of the sustenance she now anticipates. Never shall that fatherless boy, whose ignorance of his misfortune aggravates his mother's anguish, never shall he be taught a profitable employment, he must become a hireling before he can complete his allotted quota of labour, be upbraided by a rapacious task master, who shall chastise him the more unmercifully that he has none to take his part; and when on Sunday, he shall vainly complain to his mother, she will tell him with a sigh how much more the rest of the family has last week endured. Meanwhile, when hardships shall compel her to "seek for shelter in even an humbler shed," he shall trip before her, and anxiously turn to inquire if the tree that overshades them resembles the one that crushed his poor father; while she shall press to her bosom the orphan now unborn and shudder at the reflection. As she passes the pitying rustics who escaped

when their friend fell, with melancholy pleasure shall she congratulate them on their safety, and implore providence to protect them all. With inexpressible anguish shall she look forward from the hill to the cemetery that encloses the dear deceased, and there revert her streaming eye on the grove that encircled the accursed elm. Wherefore was it planted? Or rather why cut down? it has smitten the shepherd, and if humanity interpose not, the sheep shall be scattered.

It is with extraordinary regret that we reflect on the numberless accidents that care and prudence might have prevented "yet strange the living lay it not to heart," so habitually as to be more wary in similar circumstances. We assist in extinguishing the flames of our neighbour's dwelling; but soon forget to remove combustible matter to a safe distance from our own fires; we relieve the cripple who became debilitated by attempting to lift or carry more than he was able, yet the first opportunity engage in enterprizes of the same kind; and we shudder to hear of neglected children tottering into a pond or over a precipice, yet in a few hours permit our own wards to stroll at random as before. Of people perishing by mistaking poison for medicine and by presumptuously taking an immoderate quantity of a proper potion, the instances are infinite. Since the misfortunes of men's own making are always despised as well as pitied, the desire that every one feels of being esteemed by society might prevent him from injuring himself by his own misconduct, or if that motive be insufficient, the fear of offending the Author of his being certainly ought; for in what does the man who falls a sacrifice to his own temerity differ from him who commits suicide? Only in this, that the one's error is partly involuntary and the other's deliberate.

False principles in religion, or at least unfair conclusions drawn from just premises, have precipitated thousands to their destruction; what numbers every day needlessly endanger themselves through the persuasion that every man must live his appointed time! But if such persuasion could encourage its votary to descend from

the *Gabon cliff*, he would fatally find that his time was inevitably come. That "every bullet has its billet," is an article of the soldier's creed that has hurried to the field of Mars many a desperado, who would otherwise have sought and found security in the field of Ceres that he never returned to reap. It would not be difficult, however, to confute such enthusiasts on their own principles. Because heaven may have decreed that some good man must suffer a violent death, will they justify the ruffian who assassinates him? Or because it has determined that some ill-fated nation shall degenerate into slavery, will they assist the oppressor to accelerate its fall? Surely no. Then how can they argue against using those very exertions that for ought they know providence has decreed as the means of their escape? That we should use all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life and the lives of others, was the injunction of an assembly of divines, who were, notwithstanding, such rigid predestinarians, that they believed that God has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. Were even miracles of mercy again to interpose, the prodigy of indiscretion has the least reason in the world to depend on them.

False courage too, giving the desperation of the maniac to him who wants the resolution of the hero, has involved in perils multitudes who might safely have effected their purpose. The solitary wanderer, who on the uninhabited heath perished in a wreath of snow, would have permitted his friends to escort him; and the more rash adventurer whom the rain-raised flood swept from the steps of the foid, would have waited till the water had subsided, had they both not either mistaken caution for cowardice themselves, or suspected that their acquaintance would. Mistaking foresight for timidity, the inconsiderate sot lulls himself to rest in supposed security, till alarmed by impending ruin, like a bewildered man, half awake, he stumbles into the gulph from which he imagined himself receding; and the admiration with

which "hair-breadth scapes" are usually felicitated, has caused them to be sought for by many a bravo, whom the crowd, judging every enterprize foolishly planned that is unsuccessfully terminated, mocked under his mischances, and reproached for his temerity. The contempt of death is laudable only when safety would be prolonged at the expense of virtue; and hazarding life becomes criminal whenever nothing valuable can be attained by the exploit. The brave man, foreseeing possible exigencies will learn to swim; but will not put to sea in a storm. When an epidemick destemper rages round him, he will redouble his diligence to preserve his health; but will not forbear to visit the sufferers whenever he has a prospect of relieving them. On the verge of an intested wild he will dissuade his fellow travellers from proceeding till "holy light" shall be their safeguard; but if the banditti approach he will resolutely oppose it, while they who over-persuaded him to pursue his journey are pusillanimously for yielding their treasure. And if unavertable casualties overpower him, he endures poverty and pain with a fortitude that was never in alliance with affected courage.

Bullycarry,

O.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE Italian word *fonte* is marked in Veneroni's, Barrett's, and Altieri's Dictionaries as only of the masculine gender; and the primitive latin *fons* has ever, as far as I could learn, been considered as masculine. From which considerations, I hesitated not to charge Tasso with a solecism in making it feminine. But Veneroni, as I have since discovered, ranks it in his grammar amongst those nouns that are of either gender, although he has been deficient in that particular in his dictionary; so that Tasso may perhaps stand unimpeachable so far. It is only to be regretted that our Italian lexicographers are not more accurate. Nor is this the only inconsistency of Veneroni.

RICCIARDO.